

prior to her tenure as an intern and through a variety of new skills she has acquired while serving the people of Missouri and our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ms. Stephanie McCray for her many important contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives during the current session, as well as joining with me to extend to her our very best wishes for continued success and happiness in all her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. JOSEPH BALLET COMPANY IN SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the St. Joseph Ballet Company in Santa Ana, California, for receiving the 2003 Coming Up Taller award.

The Coming Up Taller award recognizes programs that involve students in the arts and humanities.

The St. Joseph Ballet Company offers 42 dance classes every week, provides one on one tutoring with students at the University of California, Irvine and along with assistance in the college admission and financial aid process.

St. Joseph is more than just a dance program. They have been teaching children about dance, self-discipline, and the importance of academic excellence for over 20 years.

Children are given a sense of accomplishment, motivation in all aspects of life and an education that goes beyond standard core curriculum.

In these difficult economic times for education, I am pleased that there are still programs like St. Joseph's Ballet that provide invaluable tools to prepare our children for the future.

PHARMACEUTICAL MARKET ACCESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Gutknecht bill.

I have always argued that while the reimportation safety-issues are of paramount importance, they are not insurmountable.

This bill includes many of the safety-provisions I've been calling for in my bill H.R. 2652, the "Internet Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act". In fact, when I first looked at the reimportation language included in the GOP prescription drug bill, I was glad to see many of these safety provisions included—until I noticed the ironic "poison pill" provision found in this language that would give the HHS Secretary the power to kill reimportation. The Gutknecht bill would remove this "poison pill" provision.

I have questioned the FDA in the past as to why they have refused to follow their own

safety guidelines when importing prescription drugs for U.S. consumers under the "personal use" exemption. I have not received a satisfactory answer from the FDA and I've concluded that their decision to ignore their own guidelines was based on politics rather than public-safety. I was further convinced of this fact when I received highly unusual lobbying call from the FDA against this bill last week.

The truth is, this bill will force the FDA's hand—they can and they will be required to implement a safe reimportation program within six months.

The lobbying campaign by the Pharmaceutical Industry in opposition to this legislation has been very distasteful—many of the tactics they employed were just plain dishonest. Americans continue to pay prescription drug prices that are 30 to 300 percent more than in European and other industrialized nations including Canada. This bill will finally force the most profitable industry in the world to give American citizens some relief from this outlandish price discrimination.

Thank you Mr. Speaker and I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING ELISHA GRAY

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, one hundred and thirty-three years ago, a man named Elisha Gray helped found the picturesque Chicago suburb of Highland Park, Illinois in my district. This extraordinary man was not only a pioneer in developing Chicago's North Shore, but also a prolific inventor.

Born in 1835 in a small Midwestern town, young Elisha Gray grew up among humble surroundings. Following the death of his father, he took on a part time job at the age of 12 in order to help support his family. Mr. Gray paid his way through college by using his boat building skills, acquired in his early years, to make specialized equipment for the science departments at Oberlin College.

Although he considered a life in the ministry, Mr. Gray always knew that his true calling was in engineering. In 1867, he received his first patent, capturing the interest of the Western Union Telegraph Company. Mr. Gray would have a lifetime association with the company. Soon after in 1870, Mr. Gray co-founded the firm of Gray and Barton, then relocated the company, named Western Electric Manufacturing Company, in the Chicago area.

While working in Chicago, Mr. Gray helped found the town of Highland Park, one of the many fine suburbs located today within my 10th Congressional District of Illinois. At home, Mr. Gray worked tirelessly on his inventions and scientific breakthroughs. In 1876, he filed a caveat, or a preliminary patent application, for an invention soon to be called the telephone. A. Edward Evenson, Gray's biographer and author of *The Telephone Patent Conspiracy of 1876*, believes that Mr. Gray's caveat predated that of Alexander Graham Bell's well known patent, which was filed on the same day. Regardless, Mr. Gray is undoubtedly a contributor to the vast body of science that underscored the modern uses of the telephone.

Throughout a life dedicated to the pursuit of technological prowess and the scientific advancement of mankind, Elisha Gray patented over 50 inventions in the United States. Besides his contributions to the telephone, Mr. Gray is most noted for his work on the first commercially successful fax machine, the Tel-autograph. Businesses and homes throughout the world are indebted to Mr. Gray's early work on this now widely used technology.

Elisha Gray also led the field in scientific publications and academic achievements. He wrote four books. He was a lecturer and professor at his alma mater, Oberlin College, and received a number of honorary degrees.

The entrepreneurial spirit of Mr. Gray must not pass unnoted. His Chicago area firm helped foster the growth of greater Chicagoland and Northeastern Illinois. In recognition of a life dedicated to the improvement of mankind, Mr. Gray received numerous awards, including the French Legion of Honor Medal, France's highest award. Elisha Gray should be honored as a man who not only founded one of my district's cities, but who, from that bucolic place, invented many things that we take for granted today.

HONORING THE DOMINICAN RESTORATION DAY HOLIDAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very important national holiday in the Dominican Republic, Restoration Day or El Día de la Restauración, celebrated annually on August 16.

Although the Dominican Republic declared its independence from Spain in 1821, it wasn't until February 27, 1844, that they established constitutional self-rule. However, years later a series of internal events led a faction of government to call on Spain to reclaim their former Caribbean colony. With the United States in the middle of its own civil war, the Dominican people were left to their own resources to wage another battle for their country's freedom. Starting on August 16, 1863, nationalists launched a counteroffensive against the Spanish crown, ultimately leading Spain to withdraw from the island of Hispaniola on March 3, 1865.

For Dominicans, August 16 is a second Independence Day, a lasting symbol of the dedication of their community to be free. In the Dominican Republic, it has been, among other things, the traditional day when victorious candidates assume the presidency. In the United States, the day serves as a cultural holiday around which many hold concerts, festivals and other celebrations. In my own city of New York, there is a grand parade down Sixth Avenue, from 36th to 56th Streets. This year, it also marks the end of Dominican Heritage week, a time when New Yorkers of all ages get an opportunity to learn about this vibrant Latino community.

So I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this holiday with Dominicans all over the world. The success of our current democracy in many ways depends on us never forgetting the sacrifice of those who have fought for the cause of freedom and peaceful self-rule all over the world.